

VERTIGO



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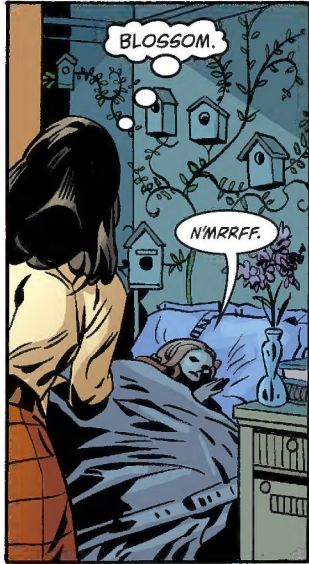
FABLES

115



May '12
vertigocomics.com
suggested for mature readers

**WILLINGHAM
BUCKINGHAM
LEIALOHA
McMANUS**



TEDDY BEAR

Chapter 2 of CUBS in TOYLAND

In which we arrive in a strange and magical land.

NO MORE!

NO MORE WAVES AND CRASHY SKIES!

I'M AFRAID!

TURN AROUND NOW PLEASE, MR. BOAT! I WANT TO GO BACK HOME!

NONSENSE!

WE'RE ON AN ADVENTURE!

A GREAT AND MAGICAL ADVENTURE!

BILL WILLINGHAM
writer/
creator

MARK BUCKINGHAM
pencils

STEVE LEIALOHA
inks

LEE LOUGHRIDGE
colors

TODD GREGORY KLEIN
letters asst.ed.

SHELLY BOND
editor



AND STILL IN THAT SAME NIGHT...

I DON'T **KNOW** HOW LONG I'VE BEEN HERE, CHAINED IN THE DARK.

MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME.

HOW LONG AGO DID YOU LEAVE ME BEHIND AT THE FARM?

DID ANYONE EVEN THINK TO LOOK FOR ME?

WE DIDN'T ABANDON YOU INTENTIONALLY, MRS. SPRATT.

BUT THOSE WERE TERRIBLE, **CONFUSING** DAYS.

AND NO ONE GAVE A SINGLE **THOUGHT** TO MAKE SURE THE PLODDING OLD FAT WOMAN MADE IT TO THE DEPARTURE POINT IN TIME.

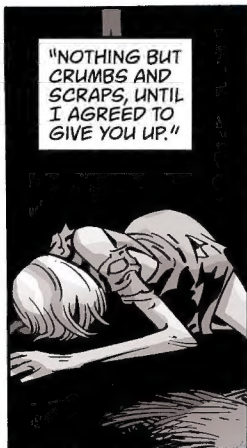
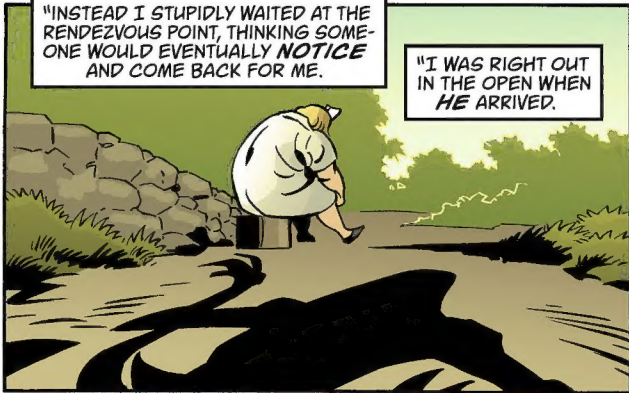
HMMMM.

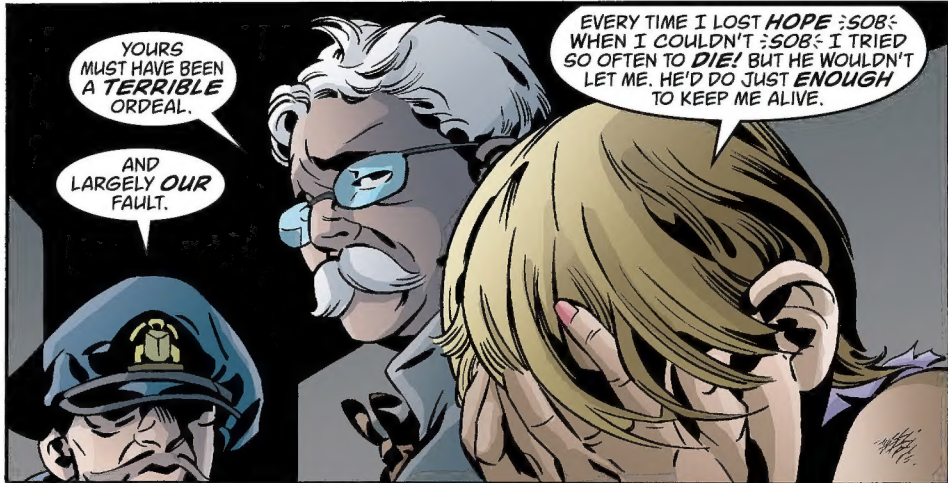
IT WASN'T LIKE THAT.

I UNDERSTAND, MR. MAYOR. I HAD NO FRIENDS TO MAKE **SURE** I WAS THERE, AND RAISE THE ALARM.

MY OWN FAULT, I SUPPOSE.

CARE TO TELL US WHAT HAPPENED?





YOURS MUST HAVE BEEN A **TERRIBLE** ORDEAL.

AND LARGELY **OUR** FAULT.

EVERY TIME I LOST **HOPE** *SOB* WHEN I COULDN'T *SOB* I TRIED SO OFTEN TO **DIE!** BUT HE WOULDN'T LET ME. HE'D DO JUST **ENOUGH** TO KEEP ME ALIVE.



ALL THAT'S BEHIND YOU NOW.

MISS DUGLAS?



WHAT THE HELL--?



LEIGH!

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?

HOLD IT, BUDDY!



HANDS WHERE I CAN **SEE** THEM!

WHO--?

NO, WAIT!

DON'T HURT HIM!





I'VE NEVER SEEN WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE BEFORE, BUT HIS VOICE!

I KNOW HIM!



YOU'RE WERIAN HOLT, AREN'T YOU?

THAT'S ME. AND YOU HAVE TO BE LEIGH.



"I WAS A PRISONER, TOO. MISTER DARK CAPTURED AND ENSLAVED ME TO BE HIS SERVANT."

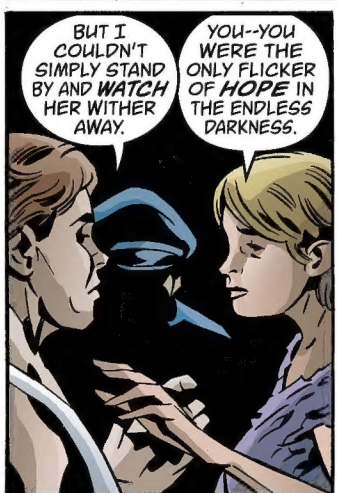
FEED THE WOMAN, BOY.

BE QUICK ABOUT IT, AND THEN GO JUST AS SWIFTLY ABOUT YOUR OTHER DUTIES.



"AS OFTEN AS I COULD, I STOLE FOOD FROM MY OWN MEAGER PLATE TO SNEAK TO HER."

"WHEN HE CAUGHT ME, HIS PUNISHMENTS WERE INVENTIVE, TO SAY THE LEAST."



BUT I COULDN'T SIMPLY STAND BY AND WATCH HER WITHER AWAY.

YOU--YOU WERE THE ONLY FLICKER OF HOPE IN THE ENDLESS DARKNESS.



WITHOUT YOUR KINDNESS, I'M CERTAIN I WOULD HAVE GONE MAD.

IN TIME HE WOULD HAVE SHATTERED ME LIKE GLASS.



FAR AWAY, IN THE KINGDOM OF HAVEN...

FLY HAS ONLY HIMSELF TO BLAME THAT WE WEREN'T READY TO GO WITH THE LAST GROUP.

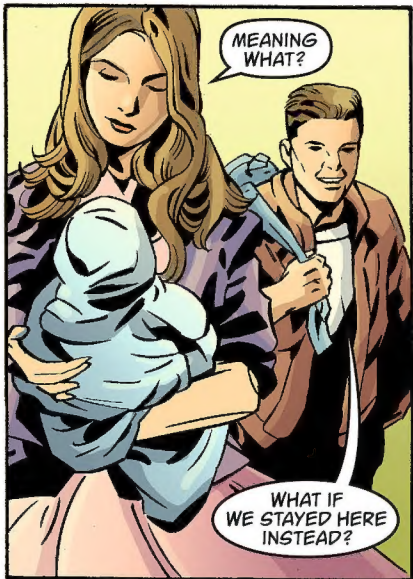
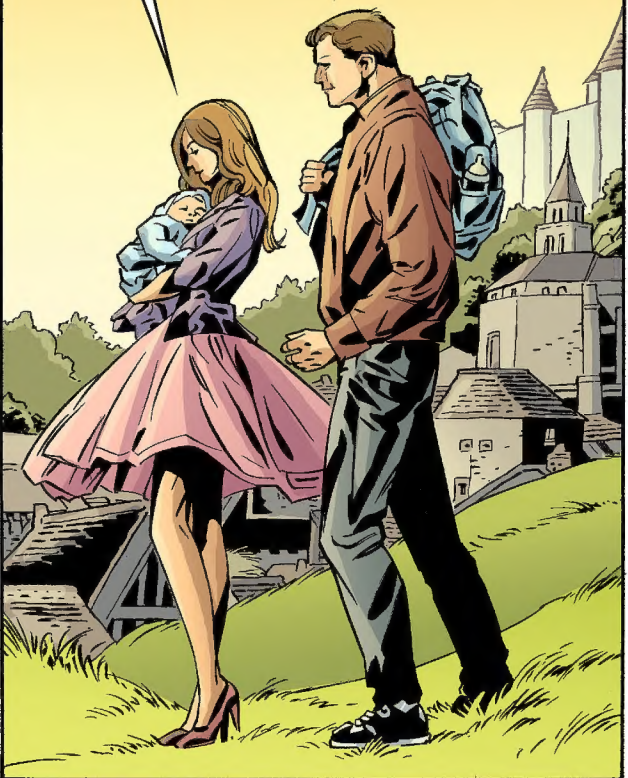
BETWEEN HIM AND WEYLAND, THEY LOADED US WITH SO MUCH STUFF FOR THE BABY I HAVEN'T GOT HALF OF IT PACKED YET.



THE HAND-CARVED CRIB. THE ROCKER. THE TOYS.

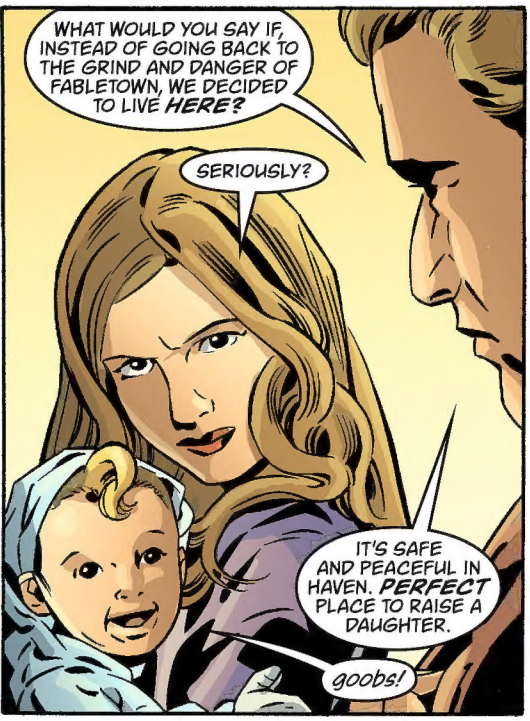
YEAH, ABOUT THAT.

WHAT IF YOU DIDN'T FINISH PACKING?



MEANING WHAT?

WHAT IF WE STAYED HERE INSTEAD?



WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF, INSTEAD OF GOING BACK TO THE GRIND AND DANGER OF FABLETOWN, WE DECIDED TO LIVE HERE?

SERIOUSLY?

IT'S SAFE AND PEACEFUL IN HAVEN. PERFECT PLACE TO RAISE A DAUGHTER.

goobs!



ELSEWHERE...

WAKE UP,
THERESE.

WAKE UP,
PRETTY PRETTY
PRINCESS.

WE'RE
HERE.

NHUUH?

WE'VE
PASSED THROUGH
THE STORM AND NOW
FIND OURSELVES ON
THE **WONDERFUL
SHORE!**

WHERE?

YOU
PROMISED
TO TAKE ME
HOME!

AND
SO I
DID.

THIS
ISN'T
HOME!

IT IS
NOW.

YOUR
NEW
HOME.

YOUR
NEW
KINGDOM!

WHAT?!



A KINGDOM?

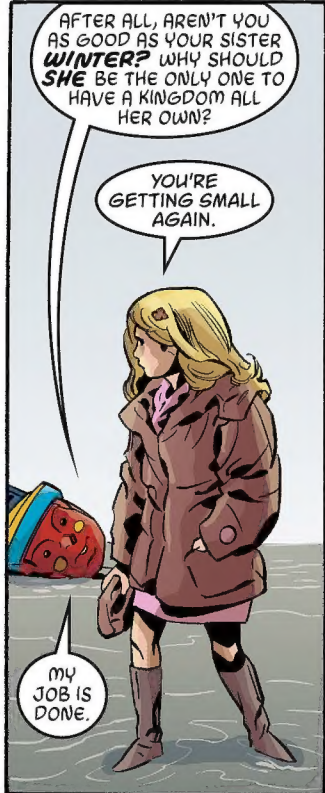
MY KINGDOM?



YUPPERS.

A MAGICAL
LAND FOR YOU
TO RULE.

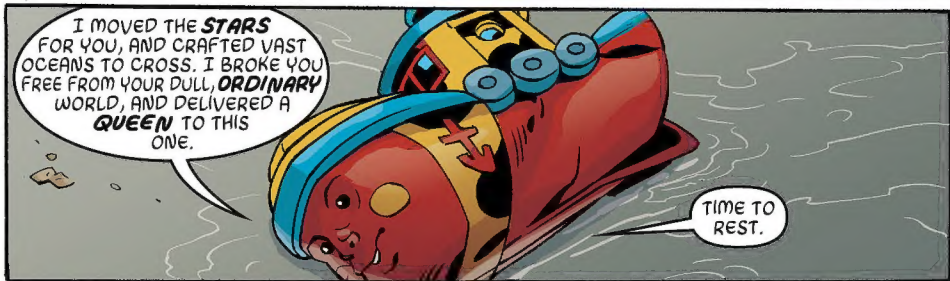
BUT--?



AFTER ALL, AREN'T YOU
AS GOOD AS YOUR SISTER
WINTER? WHY SHOULD
SHE BE THE ONLY ONE TO
HAVE A KINGDOM ALL
HER OWN?

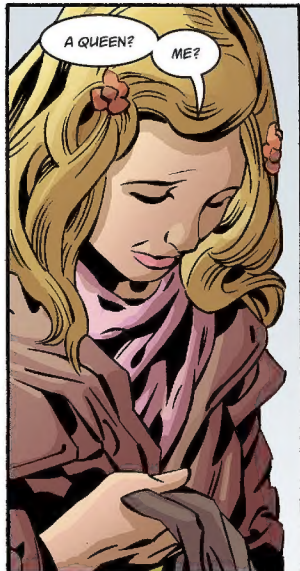
YOU'RE
GETTING SMALL
AGAIN.

MY
JOB IS
DONE.



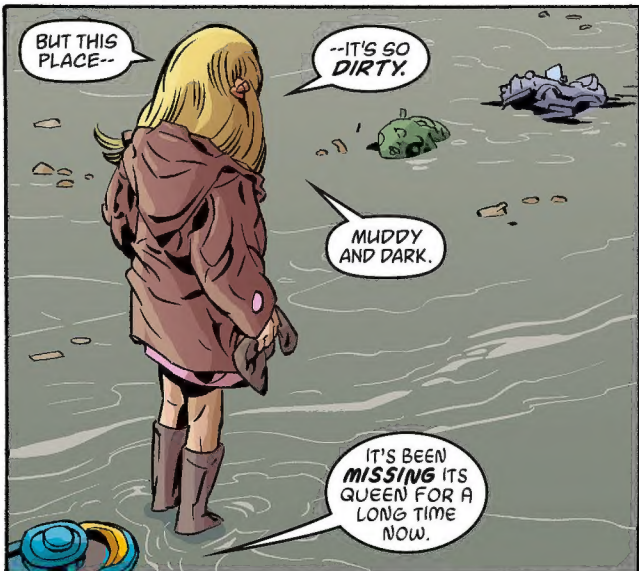
I MOVED THE **STARS**
FOR YOU, AND CRAFTED VAST
OCEANS TO CROSS. I BROKE YOU
FREE FROM YOUR DULL, **ORDINARY**
WORLD, AND DELIVERED A
QUEEN TO THIS
ONE.

TIME TO
REST.



A QUEEN?

ME?

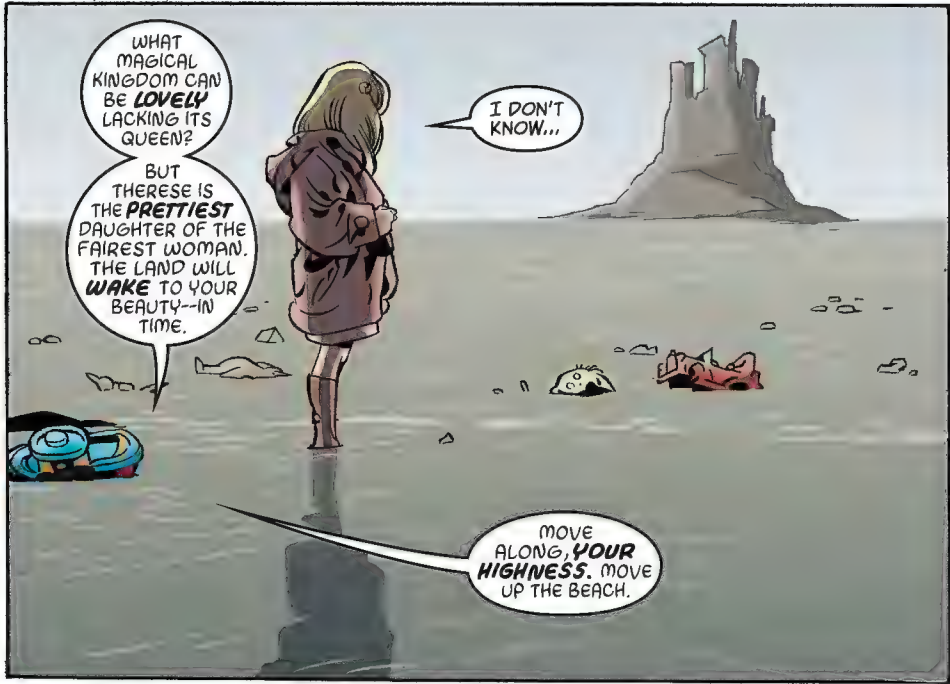


BUT THIS
PLACE--

--IT'S SO
DIRTY.

MUDDY
AND DARK.

IT'S BEEN
MISSING ITS
QUEEN FOR A
LONG TIME
NOW.



WHAT MAGICAL KINGDOM CAN BE **LOVELY** LACKING ITS QUEEN?

I DON'T KNOW...

BUT THERE IS THE **PRETTIEST** DAUGHTER OF THE FAIREST WOMAN. THE LAND WILL **WAKE** TO YOUR BEAUTY--IN TIME.

move ALONG, **YOUR HIGHNESS**. move UP THE BEACH.



LOOK.



HERE COMES SOMEONE. OH!



THEY'RE LIKE YOU.

LOOK **SHARP** NOW, LADS.

TOYS.

LET'S HAVE EVERYONE ON HIS **BEST** BEHAVIOR.



GREETINGS AND MOST **SPLENDID** SALUTATIONS, YOUR MAJESTY.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I AM YOUR MOST **HUMBLE** SERVANT, THEODORE CLEMENT VON BENIOT AND DOWN, OF SAINT BASTIEN AND SAINT IVES.

WARDEN OF THE SHIFTY SHORE, AND KNIGHT INERRANT OF THE VONDER PLUSH.

MOST CALL ME **MR. IVES** FOR SHORT.

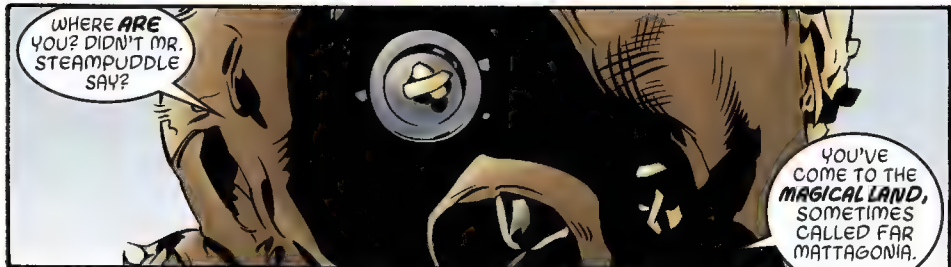
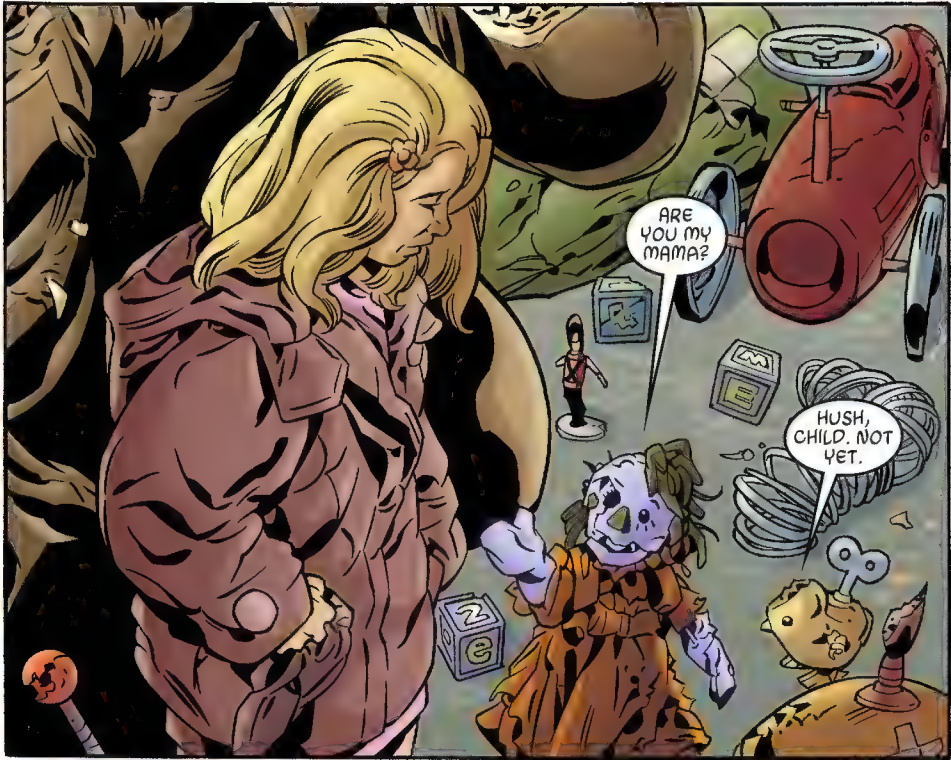
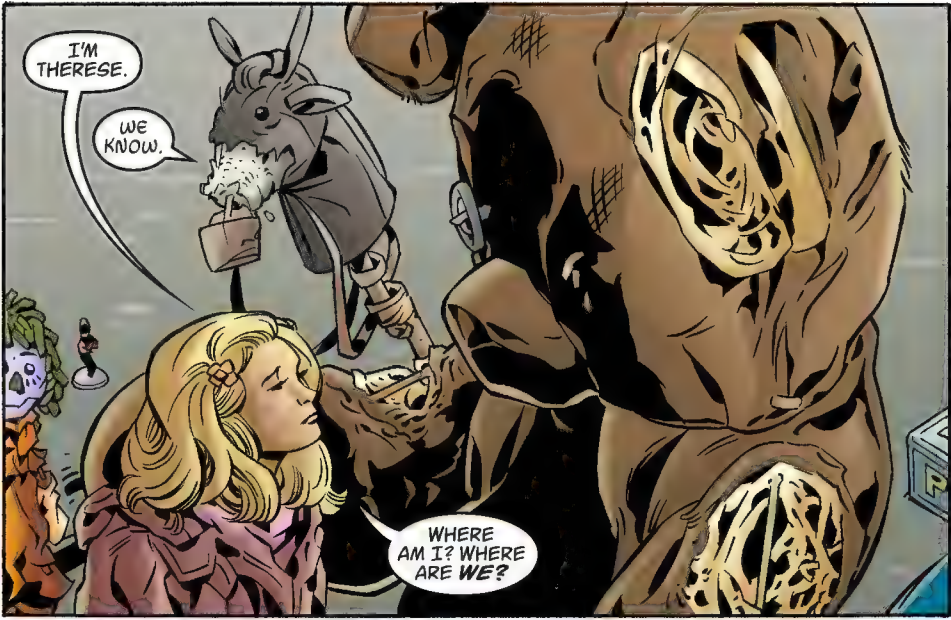
UHM...

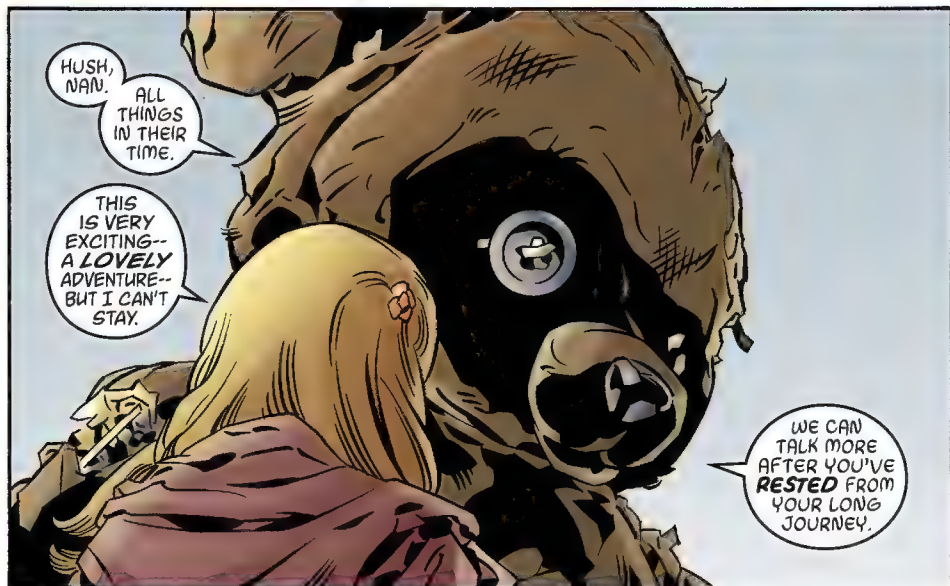
HELLO.

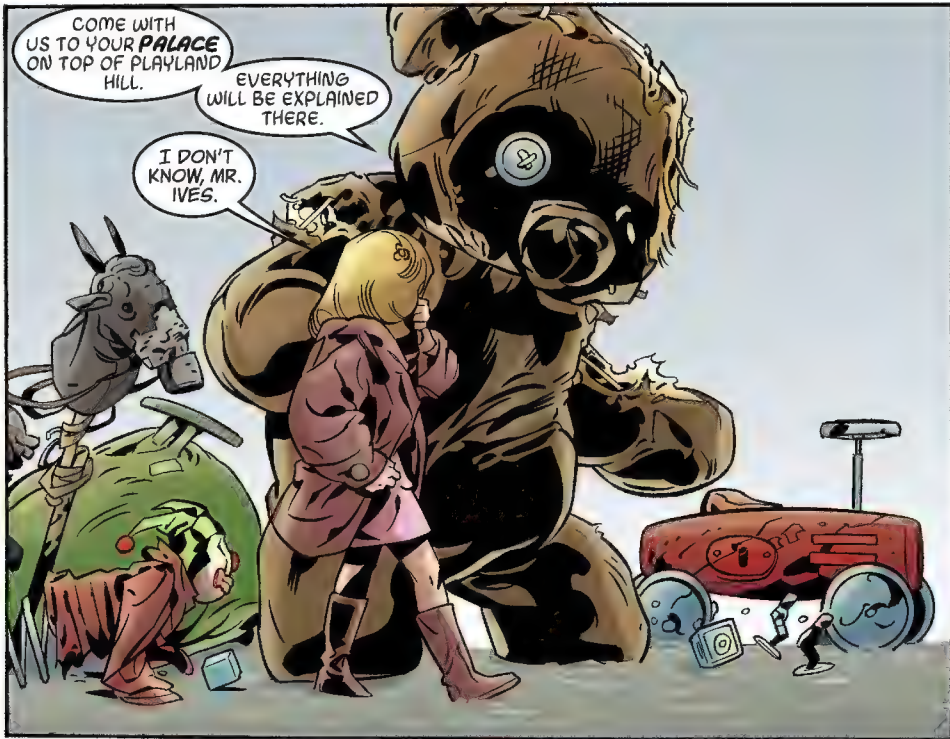
CAN IT BE?

AT LONG LAST?





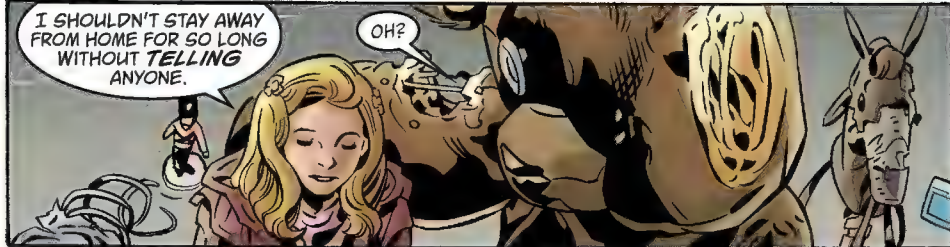




COME WITH US TO YOUR PALACE ON TOP OF PLAYLAND HILL.

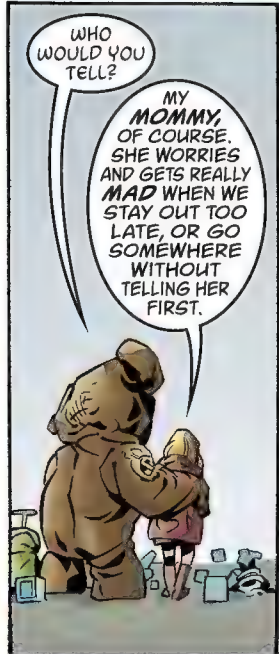
EVERYTHING WILL BE EXPLAINED THERE.

I DON'T KNOW, MR. IVES.



I SHOULDN'T STAY AWAY FROM HOME FOR SO LONG WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE.

OH?



WHO WOULD YOU TELL?

MY MOMMY, OF COURSE. SHE WORRIES AND GETS REALLY MAD WHEN WE STAY OUT TOO LATE, OR GO SOMEWHERE WITHOUT TELLING HER FIRST.



I SEE.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER HERE.



THIS IS THE LAND WHERE NO ONE WORRIES FOR YOU.

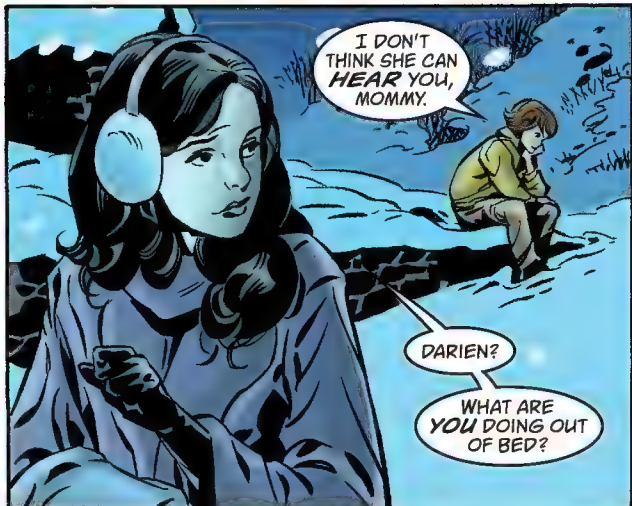
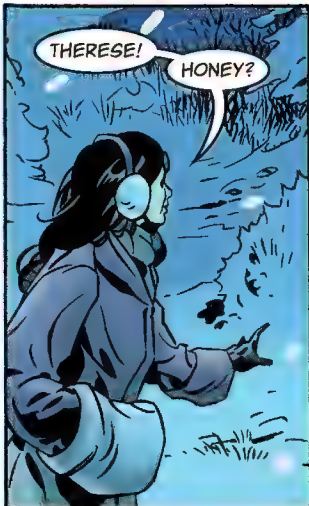
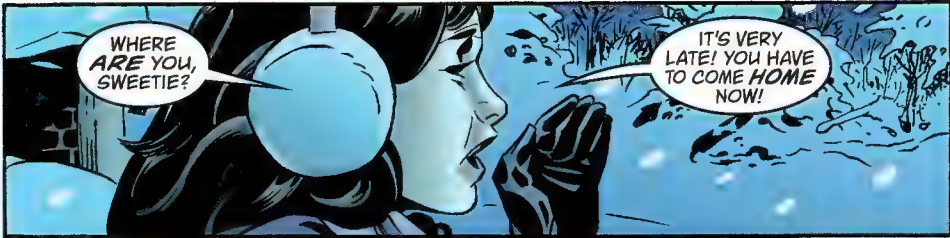
NO ONE CARES WHERE YOU'VE DISAPPEARED TO, OR EVEN REMEMBERS YOU'VE GONE AWAY.

THIS IS THE LAND OF THE DISCARDIA.

BUT SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY,
SOMEONE DOES WORRY.

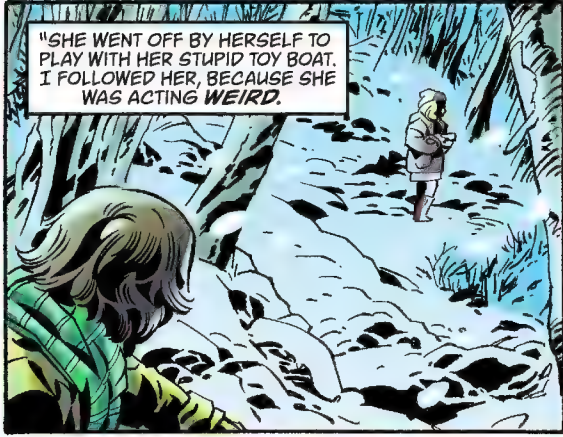
THERESE!

THERESE!

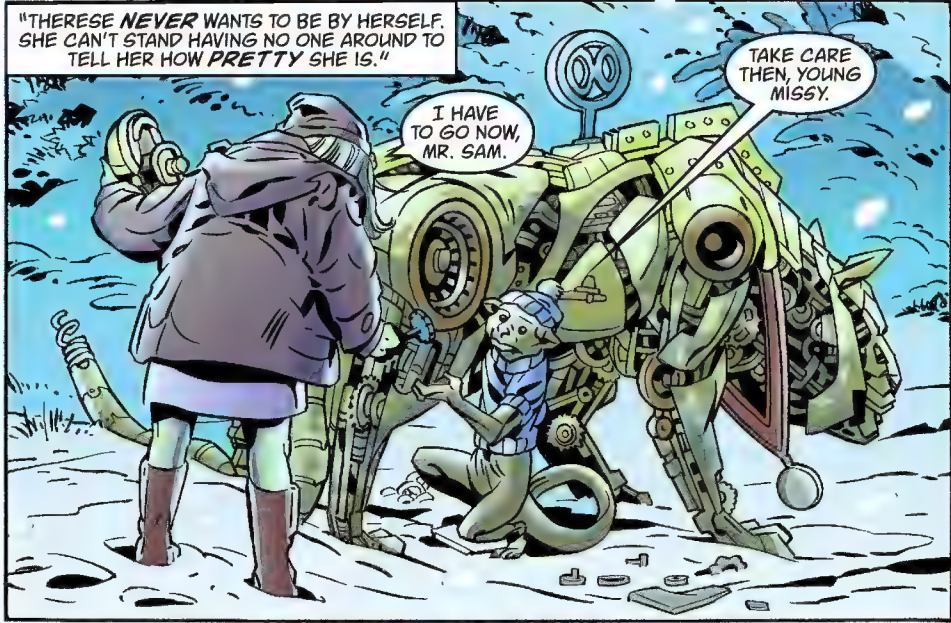




I SAW HER EARLIER, WHEN WE WERE MAKING SNOWMEN.



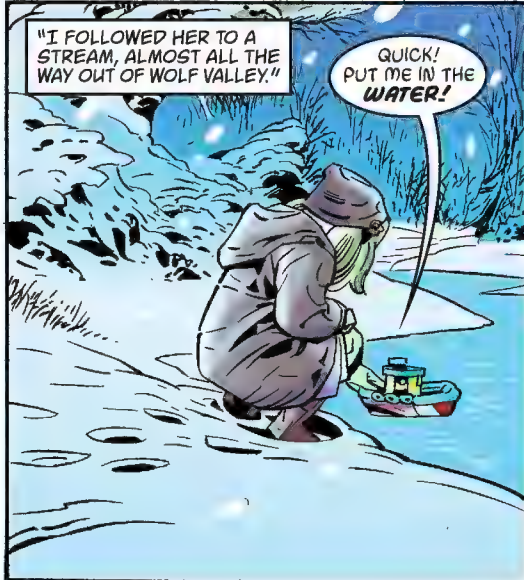
"SHE WENT OFF BY HERSELF TO PLAY WITH HER STUPID TOY BOAT. I FOLLOWED HER, BECAUSE SHE WAS ACTING WEIRD."



"THERESE NEVER WANTS TO BE BY HERSELF. SHE CAN'T STAND HAVING NO ONE AROUND TO TELL HER HOW PRETTY SHE IS."

I HAVE TO GO NOW, MR. SAM.

TAKE CARE THEN, YOUNG MISSY.

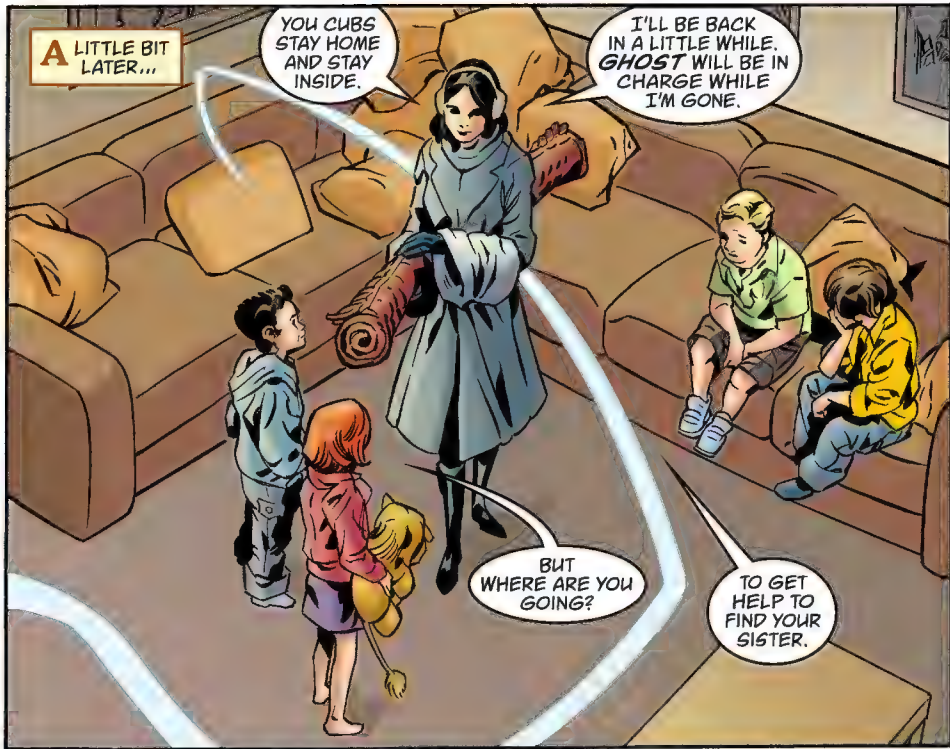


"I FOLLOWED HER TO A STREAM, ALMOST ALL THE WAY OUT OF WOLF VALLEY."

QUICK! PUT ME IN THE WATER!



THAT'S WHERE THE SCARY THING HAPPENED.



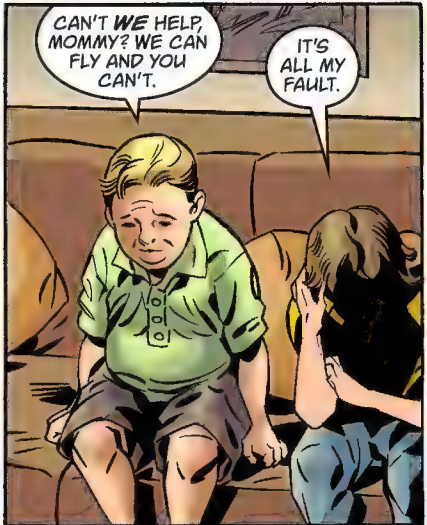
A LITTLE BIT LATER...

YOU CUBS STAY HOME AND STAY INSIDE.

I'LL BE BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE. GHOST WILL BE IN CHARGE WHILE I'M GONE.

BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO GET HELP TO FIND YOUR SISTER.



CAN'T WE HELP, MOMMY? WE CAN FLY AND YOU CAN'T.

IT'S ALL MY FAULT.



HUH?

HOW DO YOU FIGURE?



I'M THE PACK LEADER.

EVERYONE SAYS SO.



BUT MOSTLY ALL I DID WAS ACT LIKE A MEANY CRAPHEAD.

A BULLY.

IT WAS MY JOB TO LOOK AFTER THE REST OF YOU, AND I FAILED.

A REVOLUTION
in
OZ

Chapter Two:
THE BIG PLAN

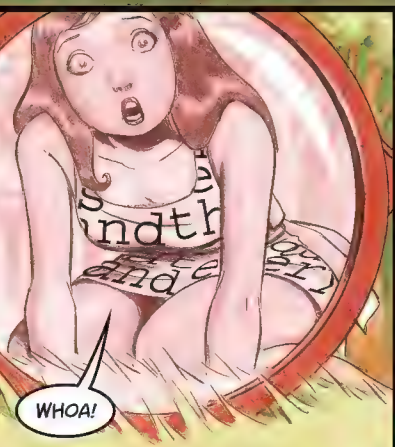
Bill Willingham
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Todd Klein letters

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assistant editor

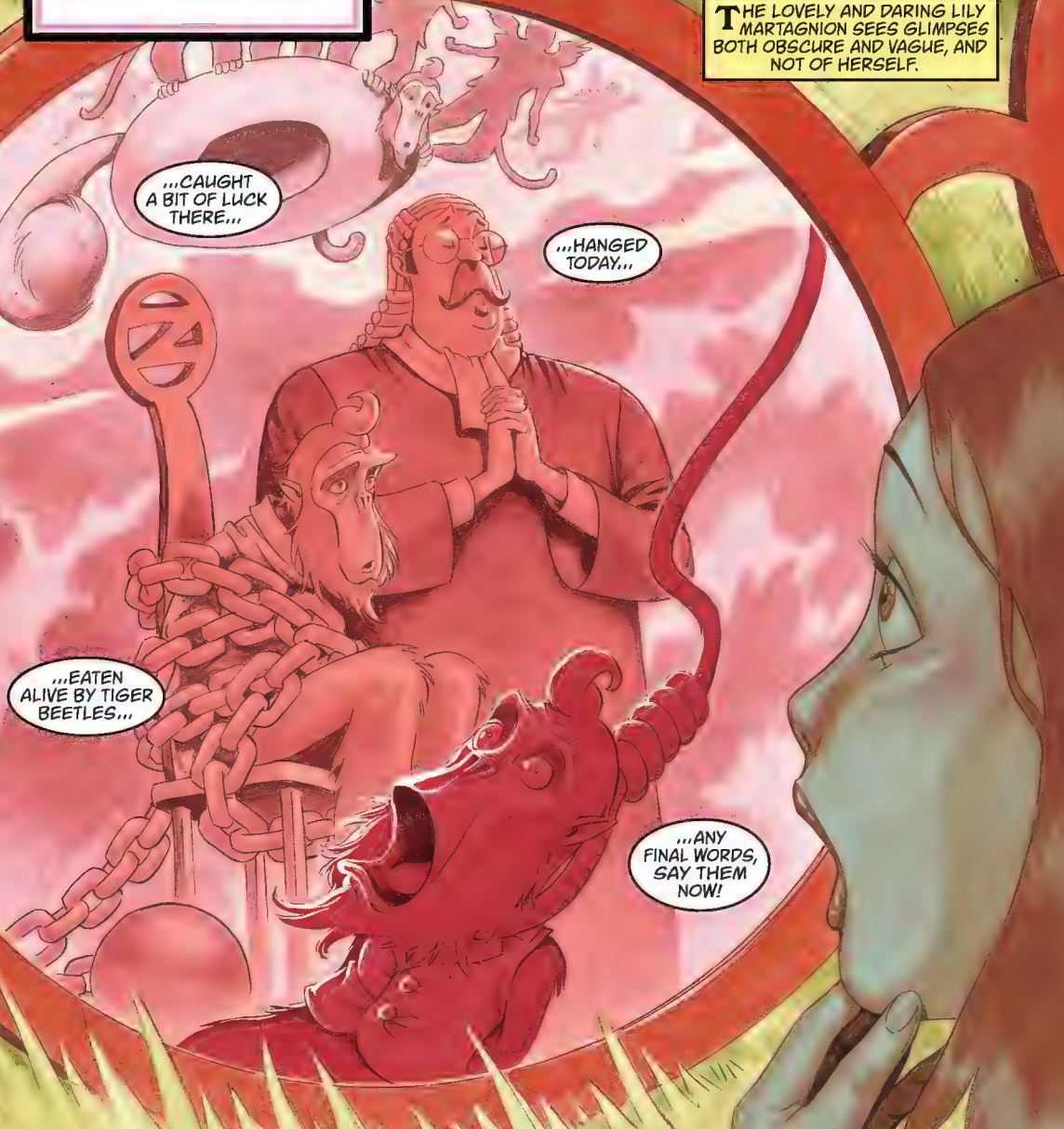
Shelly Bond editor



TAKE A PEEK THROUGH THE
MAGIC EXPECTACLES AND
ONE CAN SEE THE IMMEDIATE
FUTURE.

WHOA!

THE LOVELY AND DARING LILY
MARTAGNION SEES GLIMPSES
BOTH OBSCURE AND VAGUE, AND
NOT OF HERSELF.



...CAUGHT
A BIT OF LUCK
THERE...

...HANGED
TODAY...

...EATEN
ALIVE BY TIGER
BEETLES...

...ANY
FINAL WORDS,
SAY THEM
NOW!



OH NO!

do what
at the ex
can not ev



WAKE UP!

EVERYONE WAKE UP!

GGRRRRRR-
RUMMPHHH?



JACK PUMPKIN-
HEAD!

WAKE UP, YOU LAZY GOURD!

HUH?

and the
to chime
nd every



LILY?

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

THEY'RE GOING TO KILL MY BOYFRIEND, THAT'S WHAT!



THEY'RE GOING TO HANG **BUFKIN!**

a
s
re

A WEE BIT LATER...

WE HAVE TO MOUNT AN IMMEDIATE PLAN TO **RESCUE** HIM, OF COURSE.

FIRST WE'LL MAKE USE OF THE POWDER OF LIFE TO--

I'VE BEEN AT **WAR** WITH THE EMPEROR SINCE BACK WHEN HE WAS STILL JUST ANOTHER KING.

HOLD ON! **NOT** SO FAST!

AND I'VE **LEARNED** A THING OR TWO ABOUT **REVOLUTIONARY** WAR IN THAT TIME.

SPECIFICALLY, OUR STRUGGLE IS BIGGER THAN THE FATE OF ANY **ONE** MEMBER. WE'RE NOT READY TO STRIKE YET.

YOUR GROUNDLED AIR MONKEY WILL JUST HAVE TO FEND FOR **HIMSELF**, KNOWING THAT HIS NOBLE **SACRIFICE** WILL SERVE THE GREATER GOOD.

WE'LL **HONOR** HIM OF COURSE--A GREAT MARTYR TO THE CAUSE.

HOW **DARE** YOU?!

HE'S OUR **LEADER!** WE HAVE TO--

NO!!

HOW **DARE** YOU, LITTLE BUG!

THIS IS A **WAR**, NOT A ROMANCE!

AND, AS OF NOW, I'M IN **COMMAND** OF IT.

Next:
Those who dare...

WHEN YOU HAVE
DOZEN OR MORE
ABLE WOMEN ALL
CLAIMING TO BE
THE FAIREST IN ALL
THE LAND, IT SEEMS
ONLY FAIR WE
CREATE THIS
SERIES WHERE
EACH ONE OF THEM
HAS A CHANCE TO
TRUTH HER STUFF
AND MAKE HER
BEST CASE."

-BILL WILLINGHAM

"NOT KINGDOM?"

-THE SNOW QUEEN



#1 ON SALE
MARCH 7, 2012

BETTER. STRONGER. FASTER.

FAIREST

WRITTEN BY BILL WILLINGHAM ART BY PHIL JIMENEZ AND ANDY LANNING

WRAPAROUND COVER BY ADAM HUGHES

Balancing horror, humor and adventure, FAIREST is a new monthly series that explores the secret histories of Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, Cinderella, The Snow Queen, Thumbelina, Snow White, Rose Red and many other characters from FABLES.

Fan-favorite artist Phil Jimenez (WONDER WOMAN, THE INVISIBLES) returns to Vertigo to pencil the opening storyline. Award-winning artist Adam Hughes (WONDER WOMAN, BATGIRL) provides covers, starting with a wraparound cover on issue #1.

Future story arcs will be written by 2011 Arthur C. Clarke Award-winner Lauren Beukes with art by Inaki Miranda, and iZOMBIE scribe Chris Roberson with art by Shawn McManus!





NATHAN